

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STANDARDS

When you accept your financial aid award, you enter into a contract. You agree to successfully complete the number of units for which you receive payment and to make satisfactory progress toward your educational goal. Your progress will be evaluated at the end of each semester by the standards listed below.

This policy has been developed for students receiving federal financial aid to assist in academic planning and success. Federal regulations state that academic progress standards **MUST** include a review of periods of enrollment whether or not the student received aid.

For the purposes of financial aid eligibility, Cuesta College students **MUST** meet the following minimum standards to be applied to units attempted at all accredited post-secondary institutions. These standards are applied to all previous college course work whether or not you received financial aid.

A. MINIMUM UNIT REQUIREMENTS: You are required to complete the minimum number of units per semester according to your Financial Aid Payment:

	<u>FALL/SPRING</u>	<u>SUMMER</u>
Full Time Payment:	12 units	4 units
Three-Quarter Time Payment:	9 units	3 units
Half Time Payment	6 units	2 Units
Les Than Half Time Payment	all units attempted	

NOTE: All Psych Tech Trimesters are funded at Full-Time payments.....12 units

Withdrawals (W), Repeats, Incompletes (I), No Credits (NC), Failing Grades (F), or units achieved by challenging or auditing courses are not considered units completed for financial aid purposes. All courses offered with units of credit at Cuesta College will be considered valid units, including basic skills courses.

B. GPA REQUIREMENTS: Students must maintain an overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all Cuesta College course work. Students who do not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress are subject to Financial Aid Probation / Suspension.

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION

First-time financial aid applicants with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 from course work at Cuesta College or another institution may apply for financial aid and, if eligible, will be awarded for one semester only. This initial semester will be considered a probationary period.

Any student who does not maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in any semester shall be placed on probation for the following semester.

While on probation, the student will continue to receive grant aid, provided they agree to complete the minimum units for which they received payment (see A, above) in order to avoid Financial Aid Suspension; however, loan eligibility may be affected.

At the end of the probation period, the student's academic progress will be reviewed again. Probationary status will be removed if the student has completed the minimum unit requirement for which they were paid (see Section A) and has achieved a cumulative Cuesta GPA of 2.0. Students who do not make Satisfactory Academic Progress during the probationary semester will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

Students who receive financial aid and completely withdraw or receive 0 credits (F's) at the end of the semester will not receive a probationary semester and will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION

Students who are placed on Financial Aid Suspension are ineligible to receive financial aid. Students may request reinstatement of financial aid upon proof of completion of at least half time status with a cumulative 2.0 GPA.

Students who have had their financial aid eligibility suspended may file an appeal with the Financial Aid Advisory Committee, if they feel they had special circumstances that prevented them from making satisfactory progress (e.g. medical or family emergency).

The committee will meet in person with the students filing the appeal. If the advisory committee grants mitigating circumstances for a semester of unsatisfactory progress, financial aid eligibility will be extended for one semester. This semester will be considered a probationary period.

Students may receive an approved appeal only once while at Cuesta College.

FINANCIAL AID RULES for 2009/2010
Treatment of Title IV Aid When a Student Withdraws from Cuesta College

Disbursement/Overpayment Policy

Disbursement/Overpayments:

A student receiving the Pell Grant at Cuesta College will normally receive two disbursements per semester. The first disbursement will be indicated on the student's MyCuesta account once the file is complete. The second disbursement will be mid-semester, also indicated in the MyCuesta account.

The student's first disbursement of the semester will be based on the number of units the student is enrolled in when the disbursement is processed (approximately 5 - 8 working days prior to the payment date). The only other time the award will be revised, due to unit load, will be at the second payment of each semester.

A **SNAPSHOT** of each student's class schedule will be taken at the second disbursement for each semester. The award will automatically be increased or decreased according to enrollment status at that point.

Fall 2009 Snapshot date: October 28, 2009

Spring 2010 Snapshot date: March 31, 2010

Summer 2010: June 30, 2010

DROPPING TO LESS THAN 6 UNITS MAY RESULT IN AN OVERPAYMENT.

A student's award eligibility for the semester will be recalculated based on the number of units enrolled for the second payment (see snapshot info above). At that time, if it is determined that the student already received more funds than s/he is eligible for, then s/he has been overpaid and will owe money back to the Title IV Program.

Example: If a full-time student received a Pell grant payment of \$1183 and dropped to less than 6 units prior to March 18, 2009, the Pell award would decrease to \$468 and the student would owe \$715 back to the Pell Grant Program.

General Overpayment Information:

If the student receives financial aid and never attends classes, full repayment will be required. If the student made an error on the financial aid application that decreases eligibility, repayment will be required. The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) will be notified and the student will not be eligible to receive additional payments at any post-secondary institution until payment arrangements are made, the student may contact the Financial Aid Office to repay the amount due. Federal aid overpayments not paid by the end of the school year will be referred to the Collection Department of the U.S. Department of Education. The student may then make payment arrangements with the Department of Education to regain financial aid eligibility. State aid overpayments shall be paid to Cuesta College.

Monitoring Mid-Year Transfers

When awarding a student within the academic year, sometimes the Financial Aid Office determines that the student was not enrolled at Cuesta College during the previous semester, (i.e. awarding for spring and the student was not enrolled in fall). In this case, Cuesta College checks the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) to calculate what the student was paid in Title IV aid, (Pell Grants, SEOG, and loans) at any other institution, and determines if any of the student's scheduled awards need to be changed. Award adjustments are made manually to ensure that the student does not fall into an over-award status. During this time, a federally regulated hold is placed on the student's file for 7 calendar days.

Return of Title IV Funds Policy

► IMPORTANT INFORMATION ◀

PLEASE READ

Contact the Financial Aid Office **BEFORE** you withdraw from classes.

Cuesta College Financial Aid Office: (805) 546-3143

Federal Regulations, 34 CFR, Parts 668, 682, and 685 require that students who receive Federal Title IV Student Financial Aid and withdraw from all classes prior to completing 60% of the semester, may be required to repay all or a portion of financial assistance received. At Cuesta College, the Federal Pell Grant Program, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, the Academic Competitiveness Grant and Stafford Loans are subject to these repayment provisions effective July 1, 2002.

Students who receive Federal Financial Aid and withdraw prior to the following dates may be billed for a portion of their financial aid:

Fall 2009 October 27, 2009

Spring 2010 March 29, 2010

Summer 2010 July 7, 2010

Students who fail all courses attempted will also be subject to repayment provisions. We will assume that students who fail all classes only attended 50% of the semester. A calculation for repayment will be made based on that assumption. If such a student was actually in attendance past the 50% point, s/he must submit written documentation from an instructor within 45 days of the repayment notification letter.

The return of the Title IV funds calculation requires two separate amounts to be paid as follows:

Amount A: to be paid by the student to the U.S. Department of Education.

Students who owe repayment of Federal Title IV Aid will NOT be eligible to receive any additional financial aid payments at any postsecondary institution until the following conditions are met: Repayment has been made in full. (You may repay the full amount to Cuesta College within 45 days.) OR Satisfactory payment arrangements are made with the U.S. Department of Education. (The account will be referred to Department of Education after 45 days.)

Amount B: to be paid by the student to Cuesta College: You may be eligible to continue receiving financial aid payments if you owe this portion, however, Cuesta College may block you from enrolling in future terms and accessing transcripts and grades until repayment has been made in full.